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EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1953



EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

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# EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Chairman—

COUNCILLOR HENRY O'NEILL, J.P.

Vice-Chairman—

COUNCILLOR RICHARD SMITH

COUNCILLORS—

Coun. T. Akenhead	Coun. W. R. Gowland
„ A. Allen	„ H. Groves
„ R. M. Allison	„ E. Harper
„ J. Bainbridge	„ J. W. Hays
„ J. Burnip	„ G. Henderson
„ Mrs. E. Beaumont	„ F. Hutchinson
„ Mrs. W. E. Booth	„ J. J. Johnson
„ W. F. Butt	„ A. Langthorne
„ E. Cain, J.P.	„ J. P. McMann
„ T. J. Charters	„ Mrs. I. McManners
„ W. Collinson	„ T. Metcalfe
„ J. Cowie	„ Mrs. M. Monk
„ H. Curry	„ Mrs. F. M. Peart
„ T. Curry	„ M. Purcell
„ J. B. Davison	„ R. W. Rowe
„ W. Farmer (from 5-11-53)	„ W. S. Shipman
„ G. Forbes	„ J. Stephens (from 8-10-53)
„ J. Fort	„ R. Tait
„ T. Gallagher	„ J. Williams
„ W. Gilchrist	„ G. A. Yews

Clerk—J. W. Gray.

Accountant—E. L. Allison, A.I.M.T.A.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

---

Acting Medical Officer of Health—J. E. D. MILLER, M.B., B.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector—R. E. V. WARRAND, Cert.S.I.B.,  
M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspector—J. R. DAY, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector—T. J. RICHARDS, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspector—G. STODDART, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,  
A.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspector—P. E. BUDD, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector—P. F. JONES, Cert.S.I.B.

Sanitary Surveyor—R. R. LUMSDEN, Dip.M.Eng.

Cleansing Superintendent—J. W. MOORE.

Water Superintendent—R. BLAKEY (Retired 28-10-53).

G. WATSON (From 29-10-53).



# EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

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## REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1953

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EASINGTON,

CO. DURHAM,

1954.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1953.

The work accomplished by the department during the year is described in the various sections of the report. The section relating to the work of the Sanitary Inspector's department has been compiled by the Senior Sanitary Inspector. Contributions from the Engineer and Surveyor and the Cleansing Superintendent are also included.

The main points of interest contained in the body of the report are summarised in this introductory letter with brief comment where necessary.

### VITAL STATISTICS

This heading includes the figures or rates which allow a comparison to be made between the health of the inhabitants of the district in different years and the health of the country as a whole. They include the birth rate, the general death rate, the infantile mortality rate and the maternal mortality rate.

## BIRTH RATE

The figure of 18·1 per 1,000 of the population shows an increase on that of 17·5 for 1952 and 18·0 for 1951. It also remains higher than the rate for England and Wales as a whole (15·5) and the rate for the 160 smaller towns (15·7).

It will be seen from table 3 that there has been a steady decline in the district birth rate from 1947 until this year when an increase of 0·6 per 1,000 population can be recorded.

## GENERAL DEATH RATE

The figure for the general death rate was 10·19 per 1,000 of the population, an increase of 0·2 on that for 1952 which was 9·99. It compares favourably with that of 11·4 for England and Wales and is only ·27 per 1,000 higher than the figure of 9·92 for 1948 which was the lowest death rate on record for the Easington Rural District.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY

The infantile mortality rate is the number of children under one year of age who die out of every 1,000 live births, and is a factor of considerable importance in assessing the general health of the district.

The rate for this area in 1953 was 39·8 a decrease of three on the figure for 1952 which was 42·8. Despite this welcome decrease the rate still compares unfavourably with that of 26·8 for England and Wales, and it also remains above the figure for London and the large towns which was 30·8.

Out of a total of 59 deaths in infants under one year 30 (50·8%) occurred in the first four weeks of life, a neo-natal mortality rate of 20·2 per 1,000 live births. In 12 of these prematurity was given as the primary cause of death and in five as a contributory cause. There were seven deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis in children under two years of age as compared with three in 1952.

The decreases in both infantile mortality and neo-natal mortality are indeed encouraging, but the former, while only 0·3 per 1,000 above the 1951 lowest on record for the district, is 13 per 1,000 higher than the national rate. The death rate of infants under four weeks is 2·5 per 1,000 higher than the figure of 17·7 for England and Wales.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths in the district during the year.



## INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH

A scrutiny of the table giving the individual causes of death shows that heart disease retains its position at the head of the list, while diseases of the blood vessels of the brain regains second place displacing cancer to third position. Bronchitis and pneumonia come fourth, with tuberculosis (all forms) fifth.

## TUBERCULOSIS

The statistics for this disease are set out and summarised in the relevant section of the report.

There was an increase in the number of new cases of both forms of the disease. The number of deaths was also higher, being 13 from pulmonary tuberculosis compared with ten in 1952 and two non-pulmonary as against one the previous year. Mortality rates for the district are pulmonary 0·16 and non-pulmonary 0·02 per 1,000 population as compared with the national rates of 0·179 and 0·022.

Of the 41 milk samples submitted during the year to biological examination for tubercle bacilli all were negative with the exception of one reported as inconclusive. Thus for the past three years careful sampling in all parts of the district has failed to produce a positive result.

The Regional Hospital Board Mass Radiography Unit visited Horden on 2nd March and remained there until 13th March. There was a satisfactory response from the general public in this neighbourhood, 1,312 persons attending for X-ray. On the 1st April 209 employees of a factory in the district took advantage of a one-day visit from the unit and at Murton between 27th April and 8th May 1,449 persons were X-rayed. The last mass radiography survey for the district was carried out at Wingate from 5th to 9th October where there was an attendance of 1,353 for X-ray. There appears every indication that mass radiography is now recognised by the population as an essential public health service. During last year 2,132 persons were X-rayed in the district and for the year under review the figure increased to 4,323.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The notifications of these diseases are set out in Table 8. The incidence of scarlet fever decreased, only 82 cases being notified as compared with 175 in 1952 and 119 in 1951. There were again no deaths from this disease.

Diphtheria notifications numbered four as against six in 1952 and 23 in 1951. Not one of these four notifications was subsequently confirmed. Thus for the third consecutive year, not a single case of diphtheria has occurred in this district.

There was a decrease in the number of cases of measles, 864 being notified as against 1,068 in 1952, and there were no deaths from this disease as compared with one last year.

Whooping cough notifications numbered 423 an increase of 83 on the figure of 340 for the year 1952 and, as last year, there was one death from this disease.

There were nine notifications of meningococcal infection during the year, only two of which were subsequently confirmed.

Five cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified. Last year there were 18 notifications of this disease.

Only one case of paratyphoid B fever was notified during the year. This case and one notified as ? enteric fever were both confirmed as paratyphoid B fever.

Of the 262 cases of food poisoning notified 215 were subsequently confirmed. Details of a major outbreak affecting 208 notified cases are recorded in Section II of the report.

The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953, which came into operation on the 1st April substituted the Regulations of 1927. Generally the new regulations are similar to the old in their requirements concerning the notification of malaria, dysentery, acute primary and acute influenzal pneumonia. More stress is laid, however, on the diseases now known as typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, dysentery and other salmonella and staphylococcal infections likely to cause food poisoning. If a Medical Officer of Health is of opinion that a person in the district is suffering from, or suspected to be a carrier of, one of these infections the local authority may, on his report, take measures to prevent spread of infection by notice in writing requiring such person to refrain from engaging in any occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink for human consumption. The new regulations enable a local authority to authorise the Medical Officer of Health to serve notices in emergency in order to check the spread of these diseases.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Statistics which have been extracted from the quarterly reports of the County Medical Officer of Health are set out in table form in the body of the report. Primary immunisations have decreased from 739 in 1952 to 651 and children receiving a reinforcing injection during the year numbered 375 as compared with 394



the previous year. Having regard to the number of live births for the past two years, i.e. 1,423 in 1952 and 1,484 for the year under review it is alarming to note that over this period only 880 infants had completed a full course of primary immunisation at one year of age. As mentioned in the report for 1952 the local health authority organisation for diphtheria immunisation is such that there can be no grounds for parental excuse in respect of non-immunised children.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 of this Act gives local authorities powers to enable them to deal with certain cases of persons in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people.

It can again be reported that, although demand for hostel and hospital admissions under the Act still greatly exceeds the accommodation available to both the local health authority and the Regional Hospital Board, requests from this department continue to receive every consideration and attention.

## WATER

Routine samples of piped water supply have been taken at various points in the district throughout the year and submitted to bacteriological examination. Out of 69 such samples eight were found to be unsatisfactory and prompt action was taken in each case by the water undertaking concerned to remedy the matter. Further details regarding the water supply of the district will be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's and Engineer and Surveyor's sections of the report.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological testing of throat swabs, faeces, urine and other human specimens which had hitherto been carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne was, in early November, transferred to the Public Health Laboratory, Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Hylton Road, Sunderland.

This Council's Health Department has received valuable assistance and much guidance from the Newcastle laboratory in both epidemic and routine bacteriological investigation. The transfer will, however, save much in time and travel and full co-operation has already been established between this department and the Sunderland laboratory.

## SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The section of the report dealing with the environmental services has been contributed by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, and with it is included a section dealing with matters such as housing, water supply and sewerage contributed by the Engineer and Surveyor, and one covering public cleansing by the Cleansing Superintendent. The section contains much of interest and, since the contents do not allow of easy summary, it should be read as a whole.

## STAFF

There were no changes in the Sanitary Inspector's, Clerical and Rodent Control staffs of the department during the year.

## CONCLUSION

From a perusal of the foregoing paragraphs and the figures contained therein it will be seen that the general health of the area can be said to have been satisfactory in 1953.

The birth rate for the district, which consistently decreased from 22 per 1,000 total population in 1947 to the figure of 17·5 for the year 1952, has risen to 18·1 per 1,000 for the year under review.

The general death rate for the district, 10·2 per 1,000, showed only a slight increase on the near record rate of 9·9 for 1952.

Infantile mortality, whilst 3 per 1,000 less than the figure for 1952, still remains a matter for concern at 39·8 per 1,000 live births compared with the national rate of 26·8.

Poliomyelitis cases numbered four and of these only one was paralytic.

Early preventive measures by this department and the co-operation of medical practitioners in the areas affected prevented the outbreak of food poisoning from reaching severe proportions.

This is the last Annual Report I shall write as your Acting Medical Officer of Health and I wish to thank all members of the Council and Chief Officials for their support during the three years of my temporary office. I should also like to thank all members of the Health Department staff for their continued and willing help throughout this period.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. D. MILLER,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION I.

### CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

---

Area (in acres) .. .. .	34,653
Registrar General's estimate of resident population year, 1953 .. .. .	81,870
Number of Hereditaments on 31st December, 1953 according to the Rate Books .. .. .	25,411
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1953) .. .. .	£325,166
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1952-53) .. .. .	£1,194

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### **Births :—Live Births.**

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	746	704	1450
Illegitimate	17	17	34
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 763	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 721	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 1484

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. .. .	18·13
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#### **Still Births :—**

Legitimate	20	12	32
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 20	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 12	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 32

Rate per 1,000 total births .. .. .	21·11
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#### **Infantile Mortality :—**

Deaths of infants under 1 year :

Legitimate	33	23	56
Illegitimate	3	—	3
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 36	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 23	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 59



### INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES

Death rate of all infants under one year per 1,000 live births, 39·76.

Death rate of legitimate infants under one year per 1,000 legitimate live births, 38·62.

Death rate of illegitimate infants under one year per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 88·23.

### NEONATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks :

		Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	..	19	9	28	
Illegitimate	..	2	—	2	
		—	—	—	
		21	9	30	
		==	==	==	
Death rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	20·21	
DEATHS	..	490	344	834	
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	..	..	..	..	10·19

### MATERNAL DEATHS

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

from Sepsis	..	..	..	..	Nil.
from Other Causes	..	..	..	..	Nil.
					—
Total	..	..	..	..	Nil.
					==
Maternal Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	Nil.

TABLE 1. DEATHS—CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH.

	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks- under 1 year	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 up
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	13	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	1	5	1	—
Tuberculosis, Other	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	131	—	—	1	—	1	1	5	19	32	44	28
Diabetes	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	137	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	8	18	41	66
Coronary Disease, Angina	103	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	11	29	32	29
Hypertension with Heart Disease	18	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	8	8
Other Heart Disease	122	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	10	39	62
Other Circulatory Disease	25	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	5	15
Influenza	11	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	6
Pneumonia	34	1	8	—	1	—	—	—	2	5	8	9
Bronchitis	31	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	8	4	14
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	8	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	7
Congenital Malformations	8	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases	103	24	6	1	2	3	3	3	7	9	13	32
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Accidents	37	—	—	—	—	5	5	6	3	6	2	10
Suicide	8	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	3	—	1
TOTALS	834	30	29	8	5	14	17	23	70	137	207	294

TABLE 2.

**Cancer**

The following table gives the deaths from Cancer, in age groups, and the localisation of the disease.

	Ages in Years					Totals
	1 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 74	75 up	
Stomach ...	—	1	11	12	7	31
Lung & Bronchus	—	1	10	4	2	17
Breast ...	—	1	5	3	1	10
Uterus ...	—	—	4	3	2	9
Other Causes ...	2	3	21	22	16	64
	2	6	51	44	28	131

TABLE 3.

**Table of Birth and Death Rates for the Past 10 Years**

Year	General Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate	Birth Rate
1944	10.6	59.7	22.2
1945	11.0	54.1	21.1
1946	10.1	53.1	21.9
1947	10.8	63.1	22.0
1948	9.9	43.5	21.1
1949	10.3	48.3	19.6
1950	10.4	49.2	18.3
1951	11.6	39.5	18.0
1952	9.9	42.8	17.5
1953	10.2	39.8	18.1

	General Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate	Birth Rate
1953			
England & Wales	11.4	26.8	15.5
Easington Rural District	10.2	39.8	18.1

TABLE 4.  
Birth Rate, Death Rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1953.

	Rate per 1,000 Total population	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population								D'th Rate per 1,000 Live Births.		
		All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis	Influenza	Smallpox	Acute Poliomyelitis	Pneumonia	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths (under 1 year)
England and Wales	15.5	11.4	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.20	0.16	0.00	0.01	0.55	1.1	26.8
Easington Rural District	18.1	10.2	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.18	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.41	4.7	39.8

TABLE 5.  
Infantile Mortality Rates  
(10 years)

Year	Births	Easington R. D. Inf. Mortality Rate	England & Wales Inf. Mortality Rate
1944	1690	59.7	46
1945	1627	54.1	46
1946	1751	53.1	43
1947	1759	63.1	41
1948	1722	43.5	34
1949	1616	48.3	32
1950	1504	49.2	29.8
1951	1468	39.5	29.6
1952	1423	42.9	27.6
1953	1484	39.8	26.8

TABLE 6.  
Death Rates (10 years)

Year	Deaths	Easington R. D. Death Rate	England & Wales Death Rate
1944	811	10.6	11.6
1945	848	11.0	11.4
1946	808	10.1	11.5
1947	862	10.8	12.0
1948	809	9.9	10.8
1949	850	10.3	11.7
1950	857	10.4	11.6
1951	945	11.6	12.5
1952	811	9.9	11.3
1953	834	10.2	11.4

TABLE 7.  
Natural Increase of Population

Year	Births	Deaths	Rate of Natural Increase per 1,000 population.
1944	1690	811	11.5
1945	1627	848	10.1
1946	1751	808	11.8
1947	1759	862	11.2
1948	1722	809	11.2
1949	1616	850	9.3
1950	1504	857	7.9
1951	1468	945	6.4
1952	1423	811	7.5
1953	1484	834	7.5



## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 1953

Population	.. .. .	81,870
Area (acres)	.. .. .	34,653
Estimated number of Hereditaments	.. .. .	25,411
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1953)	.. .. .	£325,166
Sum produced by penny rate (1952-53)	.. .. .	£1,194
Births	.. .. .	1,484
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		18·13
Deaths	.. .. .	834
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		10·19
Death rate of infants under one year of age	..	39·76

## CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause	Number	Percentage of total deaths
Diseases of the heart .. .. .	243	29·14
Diseases of the veins and arteries of the brain .. .. .	137	16·43
Cancer .. .. .	131	15·71
Bronchitis and pneumonia .. .. .	65	7·80
Tuberculosis (all forms) .. .. .	15	1·80
Tuberculosis (pulmonary) .. .. .	13	1·56

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diseases	Cases notified	Number of deaths	Death rate per 1,000 population
Measles .. .. .	864	—	—
Whooping Cough .. .. .	423	1	0·01
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	82	—	—
Tuberculosis (all forms) new cases	82	15	0·18
Dysentery .. .. .	22	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	9	1	0·01
Poliomyelitis .. .. .	5	—	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	4	—	—

Influenza, which is not notifiable, caused 11 deaths.

SECTION II.  
TABLE 8.  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
NOTIFIED CASES, 1953

Cases notified in whole district.											
DISEASE	At all ages	Under 1	1 to 2+	3 to 4+	5 to 9+	10 to 14+	15 to 24+	25 to 34+	35 to 44+	45 to 64+	65 and over
Measles ..	864	48	215	311	278	9	2	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	423	48	132	140	98	2	2	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	262	21	75	43	37	11	16	20	15	18	6
Pneumonia ..	93	28	14	4	9	—	6	4	2	15	11
Scarlet Fever ..	82	—	6	24	43	5	4	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	22	—	4	4	2	4	1	1	3	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	19	—	—	—	—	—	7	11	1	—	—
Erysipelas ..	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	8	3
Meningococcal Infection ..	9	4	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	5	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	4	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ..	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	71	1	—	—	1	2	25	12	13	15	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	11	—	—	2	—	—	5	3	—	1	—
TOTALS ..	1886	152	449	529	473	37	68	55	41	58	24

The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past five years :—

TABLE 9.

Year	Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
1949	12	Nil	103	Nil
1950	39	Nil	89	Nil
1951	23	Nil	119	Nil
1952	6	Nil	175	Nil
1953	4	Nil	82	Nil

TABLE 10.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

1953

CASES		
Notified	Treated	
	At Home	In Hospital
	2	—

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The main points of interest in the foregoing tables can be briefly summarised as follows :—

The number of scarlet fever notifications was much less than for the previous year. There were 82 notified cases of this disease in 1953 as compared with 175 in 1952 and 119 in 1951. Sporadic cases again occurred throughout the year and there was no definite period of increased incidence.

Diphtheria notifications numbered only four as contrasted with six in 1952 and 23 in 1951. None of these notifications was subsequently confirmed and thus for the third consecutive year the district has been free from this disease.

The number of cases of measles showed a decrease, 864 being notified as against 1,068 in 1952 and 1,222 in 1951. There was a heavy incidence of the disease in the first six months of the year during which almost 90% of the total notifications were received.

Whooping cough notifications numbered 423 as against 340 in 1952. There was one death from this disease.

Cases of erysipelas numbered 16, an increase of seven on the figure for last year.

There were nine notifications of meningococcal infection during the year. Only two of these cases were subsequently confirmed. There was one death.

Five cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis were reported during the year. Of these one was found to be suffering from the paralytic form of the disease, three were non-paralytic and in one case the diagnosis was not confirmed. There were no deaths.

Nineteen cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified as compared with 17 in 1952.

Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis numbered 71, an increase of 11 on the figure for 1952.

Twenty-two cases of dysentery were notified during the year and 17 of these were confirmed.

There was one notified case of paratyphoid B fever. This patient and another notified as ? enteric fever were confirmed as paratyphoid B fever cases.

## FOOD POISONING

Two hundred and sixty two cases of food poisoning were notified, 215 of which were confirmed.



In compliance with the Ministry of Health Revised Memo 188/Med. a return in the form suggested in Appendices D (i) and D (ii) was made in respect of 215 confirmed cases as follows :—

### ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)

1. LOCAL AUTHORITY — Easington Rural District Council :  
Year 1953.
2. FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected) RETURNED TO  
R.G.
 

1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
1	1	211	2	215
3. OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS  
Total Outbreaks — 1 ; Total Cases — 208 ;
4. OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE  
Total Outbreaks — 0 ; Total Cases — 0 ;
5. SINGLE CASES  
Agent Identified — 6 ; Unknown Cause — 1 ; Total — 7  
cases. (Six cases *Salm. typhi-murium*).

An account of the outbreak which affected 208 persons may be of interest. The details are as follows :—

On Monday 29th June one of the Easington Colliery doctors telephoned the department to say that he had been called to attend several patients suffering from gastro-enteritis, and requested help to ascertain whether or not the illness was due to some form of food poisoning. Particulars of four patients were obtained from the doctor, and following immediate enquiries it was possible on the afternoon of the same day to send a faecal specimen from one of the patients to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne. The following day enquiries revealed a fairly large number of persons suffering from gastro-enteritis at Easington, Horden and Peterlee and lists of patients were obtained from the doctors attending them.

On Wednesday 1st July the Bacteriologist reported that the food poisoning organism known as *Salmonella typhi-murium* had been found in the specimen submitted to him on the 29th June. By the evening of the same day some 40 households had been visited, and from the evidence obtained there appeared to be sufficient grounds for suspecting a milk supply as the vehicle of infection. Thereafter investigations were carried out at a local dairy farm and subsequently bacteriological specimens from the bulk raw milk supply, a specimen of milk and dung from a suspected cow in the herd and faecal specimens from 20 milk handlers employed at the farm were sent to the laboratory for



examination. The results of most of these were obtained on Monday, 6th July, and showed that the specimens from the cow and also those from 11 of the milk handlers contained the same type of organism as that isolated from the specimens of the patients. The sample of milk from the bulk supply was, however, negative. The Bacteriologist was much interested in the results he had obtained and expressed a wish to visit the farm the same day. This was arranged, and the farmer was advised of the results of the bacteriological examinations. He was also told that, subject to confirmation by the Ministry of Health, the local authority would require his raw milk supply to be effectively heat treated. Later that afternoon the appropriate department of the Ministry of Health, to whom a report of the outbreak had been sent on the 3rd July, was contacted by telephone and it was agreed that the production of milk at the farm could be continued provided the milk was effectively pasteurised. The following day, Tuesday, 7th July, a notice under the Food & Drugs Acts 1938 and 1949 and Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 was served on the owners of the farm restraining the sale of milk unless it was effectively heat treated. It was not, however, until the following day that arrangements for the pasteurisation of the milk could be completed. Fourteen days from the commencement of the outbreak bacteriological results showed the position as follows :—

SUBJECT	BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULT
Suspected Cow—	Milk—one positive. Dung—two positive.
Retail Bottled Milk Supply—	Three samples—all negative.
Milk Samples from 58 Cows of the Herd—	All negative.
Twenty-three Milk Handlers—	
First Specimen—	15 positive : 8 negative.
Second Specimen—	8 positive ; 12 negative.

Up to the week ended Saturday, 11th July, 213 cases of ? food poisoning had been notified to the department comprising 114 from Easington (Colliery and Village), 51 from Peterlee and 48 from Horden. It is interesting to observe that the infection affected 123 children (58%) under the age of five years, 40 (19%) in the age group 5 to 14+, and 50 persons (23%) over 15 years of age.

All food handling contacts were investigated and where necessary precautions taken to eliminate the possibility of spread.

The milk handlers found to be positive responded reasonably well to medical treatment, and by Friday, 7th August it could be said that they were all free from infection.

Two consecutive negative results in respect of milk and dung from the infected cow isolated from the rest of the herd had also been received. There remained, however, two cases of infection in the household of one of the milk handlers who would require a period of perhaps two weeks or more to clear. In the circumstances contact by telephone was made with the Ministry of Health to seek confirmation of a proposal to lift the restraint order, which had been in operation at the farm since 7th July, subject to an assurance from the farmer that the milk handler and all members of his family would be excluded from any work or contact with the farm and with persons associated therewith until the household was declared free from infection. Ministry agreement to this procedure was obtained and the restraint imposed upon the milk supply was accordingly lifted on Friday, 7th August.

In the majority of patients the duration of illness appeared to have been only two or three days, but in six cases affecting young children hospital treatment was necessary. No deaths were reported.

Of the 252 bacteriological specimens submitted to the Public Health Laboratory from patients and food handlers 201 proved to be positive for the food poisoning organism *Salmonella typhimurium* and 51 were negative.

Dr. R. Norton and Dr. Elizabeth C. Armstrong of the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne carried out the necessary bacteriological research. Their joint report in the May, 1954 issue of the Ministry of Health and Public Health Laboratory Service Monthly Bulletin gives a more detailed account of the outbreak.

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SECTION III.

TABLE II  
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following details have been extracted from the Quarterly Reports of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Quarter Ended	Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation.			Total	Number of children who were given a reinforcing injection.
	Age at date of final injection.				
	under 1	1—4	5—14		
31. 3.53	109	48	4	161	117
30. 6.53	86	55	4	145	76
30. 9.53	90	36	3	129	82
31.12.53	143	66	7	216	100
Totals	428	205	18	651	375

SECTION IV.

TUBERCULOSIS

TABLE 12.

Number of Cases on Register at 31st December, 1953.

PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			TOTAL CASES
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
289	271	560	169	156	325	885



TABLE 13.  
New Cases and Mortality, 1953.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 2 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 to 4 +	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 9 +	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 14 +	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 +	11	14	2	3	—	1	—	—
25 to 34 +	5	7	1	2	2	1	—	—
35 to 44 +	11	2	—	—	1	1	1	—
45 to 64 +	10	5	1	—	4	2	1	—
65 and upwards	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	42	29	6	5	8	5	2	—



TABLE 14  
COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS				No. ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR									
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary							
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total						
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total						
1944	32	37	69	22	29	51	13	10	23	5	7	12	183	165	348	211	233	444
1945	29	29	58	26	27	53	17	18	35	5	4	9	189	174	363	206	218	424
1946	47	35	82	21	19	40	18	6	24	7	3	10	207	189	396	185	186	371
1947	59	37	96	21	18	39	13	20	33	9	6	15	234	189	423	189	175	364
1948	51	42	93	11	9	20	15	14	29	6	3	9	254	206	460	193	176	369
1949	38	34	72	10	8	18	20	12	32	6	2	8	261	218	479	198	178	376
1950	41	45	86	7	11	18	14	8	22	2	1	3	287	248	535	199	179	378
1951	26	33	59	4	7	11	13	7	20	1	3	4	282	247	529	180	170	350
1952	30	30	60	7	2	9	8	2	10	—	1	1	283	259	542	177	159	336
1953	42	29	71	6	5	11	8	5	13	2	—	2	289	271	560	169	156	325

TABLE 15.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis between the ages of 15 and 25 years, during the past 10 years.

Year	Male	Female	Total	Percentage of Total Pulmonary Deaths
1944	1	4	5	21%
1945	3	8	11	31%
1946	3	3	6	25%
1947	5	11	16	48%
1948	3	4	7	24%
1949	2	5	7	22%
1950	1	1	2	9%
1951	1	2	3	15%
1952	—	—	—	Nil
1953	—	1	1	7%

TABLE 16.

The following Table shows the number of deaths from Tuberculosis (all ages) during the past five years—the figures in parenthesis indicating deaths occurring in previously notified cases of Tuberculosis.

YEAR	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1949	20 (20)	12 (11)	32 (31)	6 (6)	2 (—)	8 (6)
1950	14 (12)	8 ( 8)	22 (20)	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)
1951	13 ( 5)	7 ( 7)	20 (12)	1 (—)	3 (2)	4 (2)
1952	8 ( 5)	2 ( 1)	10 ( 6)	—	1 (—)	1 (—)
1953	8 ( 5)	5 ( 2)	13 ( 7)	2 (2)	—	2 (2)
Totals	63 (47)	34 (29)	97 (76)	11 (10)	7 (3)	18 (13)

## TUBERCULOSIS

The main points of interest in the foregoing tables can be summarised as follows :—

Seventy-one new cases of the pulmonary form of the disease were notified during the year comprising 42 males and 29 females. This was an increase of 11 upon the figure for 1952 which was 60, made up of 30 males and 30 females.

New notifications of the non-pulmonary form of the disease numbered 11, an increase of two upon the figure for 1952.

Deaths from the pulmonary form of the disease showed an increase from ten in 1952 to 13, while in the non-pulmonary form two deaths were recorded as against one in 1952.

The number of new cases among females in the 15 to 35 age group formed 76% of all new female cases.

The mortality rate for the district for the respiratory form of the disease in 1953 was 0·16 per 1,000 of the population, which compares favourably with the figure of 0·18 per 1,000 for England and Wales as a whole. The mortality rate for the district in the non-pulmonary type of the disease was 0·02 per 1,000 which is also the national rate.

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## SECTION V

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Medical Officer of Health

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting a report of the work undertaken by the Inspectors of this department during the year 1953.

The various tables and statistics show that steady progress is being maintained in all the Public Health Services but, as mentioned last year, there is need for greater activity in respect of housing repairs throughout the district. The high cost of materials no doubt continues to be responsible for retarding a higher standard in property maintenance.

The supervision of food premises has taken up a considerable amount of the inspectors' time but good results are being achieved in this direction.

The Ministry of Food Memorandum (Memo. 3/Meat) on the Methods and Criteria of Meat Inspection, which the Minister recommended should be adopted by local authorities in substitution for those contained in Memo 62/Foods as amended by Memo 62b/Food, was adopted by this Council as from 1st February—the date suggested by the Minister. Further reference to Memo 3/Meat is made in the section of my report headed "Supervision of Food Supplies".

I am again grateful for the assistance of my colleagues in the Health Department and for the ready co-operation received from the chief officers.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. V. WARRAND,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

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## WATER SUPPLY

Water undertakings supplying the District are :—

Sunderland and South Shields Water Company.  
 Durham County Water Board.  
 Wingate and District Water Company.  
 The National Coal Board.  
 Easington Rural District Council.

Sixty-nine samples of mains water were taken from public stand pipes or consumers' premises and submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne. Eight of these were found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory, but in all cases the water undertakings concerned made immediate investigation into the cause.

A typical analysis of a mains supply is as follows :—

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS	PARTS PER MILLION
Total Solids .. .. .	420
Chlorine as Chloride .. .. .	30
Chlorine expressed as Sodium Chloride	50
Nitrogen as Nitrates .. .. .	2·5
Nitrogen as Nitrites .. .. .	nil.
Free Ammonia .. .. .	0·004
Albuminoid Ammonia .. .. .	0·010
Alkalinity .. .. .	288
Total Hardness .. .. .	373
Total Hardness (degrees) .. .. .	26·1
Suspended Matter .. .. .	nil.
Iron .. .. .	nil.
pH Value .. .. .	7·3

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Organisms visible on agar after 48 hours  
 incubation at 37°C. .. .. . 0

Coliform organisms absent in 1, 10 and 100 ml.



Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to houses (b) by means of standpipes, are given in the following table.

LOCALITY	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Estimated population	Area in acres	Number of houses and other premises with dwelling ac'm'dat'n	No. of Houses with mains supply direct to houses	No. of Houses with mains supply from stand pipes	No. of Houses without mains supply
Burdon ..	83	1286	23			
Seaton with Slingley ..	431	1392	138	176	—	—
Warden Law ..	50	500	15			
Castle Eden ..	360	1542	131	127	—	4
Cold Hesledon ..	1001	1030	285			
Dalton-le-Dale ..	723	811	246	443	88	—
Easington with Thorpe ..	10634	3716	3051	3048	—	3
Haswell ..	2674				13	—
South Hetton ..	3251	3766	1837	1703	115	6
Hutton Henry ..	547				20	—
Station Town ..	2376	2016	832	807	2	3
Hawthorn ..	355	1414	146	144	—	2
Blackhall ..	6834					
Hesledens ..	1435	2654	2498	2452	46	—
Murton East ..	9319	1406	2743	2184	557	2
Sheraton with Hulam ..	124	2346	41	18	—	23
Nesbitt ..	8	333	3	3	—	—
Shotton ..	6640	2270	1876	1865	11	—
Horden ..	18619	2453	5277	5271	—	6
Thornley ..	4422	1148	1356	1344	12	—
Wingate ..	4087				—	
Wheatley Hill ..	5985	4570	3534	3519	6	9
Trimdon ..	1912				—	
TOTALS ..	81870	34653	24032	23104	870	58

The following table shows the principal nuisances dealt with during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936 :—

Nature of Nuisance	No. of Visits	Notices Served		Nuisances Abated
		Informal	Formal	
Foul Conditions .....	83	16	—	13
Structural Defects .....	471	93	7	52
Ashpits & Privies .....	6	—	—	3
Deposits of Refuse and Manure .....	80	16	—	15
Waterclosets .....	44	15	1	10
Defective Yard Paving	5	3	—	—
House Drainage—				
Defective Traps .....	27	14	1	11
Other Faults .....	240	47	16	59
Water Supply (Defective Fittings) .....	58	20	—	26
Animals improperly kept	50	11	—	5
Smoke Nuisances .....	22	9	—	5
Other Nuisances .....	102	10	—	5
Dustbins .....	231	137	12	109
Public Halls & Cinemas	32	3	—	2
Licensed Premises .....	57	—	—	—
Verminous Premises—				
Council Houses .....	68	3	1	3
Private Houses .....	69	14	—	12
Infectious Diseases				
Enquiries .....	742	—	—	—
Disinfections .....	155	—	—	—
Tents, Vans & Sheds	54	4	—	2
	2596	415	38	332

## SCHOOLS

Frequent inspections of schools in the district were made in connection with sanitary accommodation and washing facilities. No nuisances were reported in this direction.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT AND COLLIERY SPOILBANKS

The position remains very similar to other years. Routine inspections have been made in conjunction with the Area Inspector of Alkali, etc. Works of the Ministry of Health at all collieries disposing of waste on the surface, and where found necessary advice has been given to the National Coal Board with a view to the abatement of any nuisances found.

Slight improvement was observed at spoilbanks where bulldozing had been in operation.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Three sites continue to be used in the Grimdon area and are subject to regular visits especially during the summer months. No statutory nuisance was observed.

## VERMINOUS PREMISES

Thirty-two Council houses and thirteen private houses were disinfested of bed bugs. Accounts were rendered in the case of all privately owned dwellings to cover the cost of time and materials used.

In 132 cases of infestation of house property by cockroaches, etc., advice and active assistance were given.

## DISINFECTION OF PREMISES

742 visits and re-visits were made to houses during the year in respect of infectious disease and food poisoning enquiries and for the purpose of disinfection in the case of the former. The following table shows the number of houses disinfected following infectious disease during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	82
Diphtheria	..	..	..	4
Meningococcal Infection	..	..	..	9
Paratyphoid Fever	..	..	..	2
Dysentery	..	..	..	22
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	25
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	6
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	5

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LICENSED PREMISES, CLUBS, ETC.

Fifty-seven inspections were carried out at licensed premises and clubs. In respect of fifteen of these premises more adequate sanitary accommodation was required for both sexes.

CINEMAS AND PUBLIC HALLS

Thirty-two inspections were made in respect of heating, lighting, ventilation and sanitary accommodation. Three informal notices were served and in two instances these were complied with. Eight premises provided more suitable sanitary accommodation.

RODENT CONTROL

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out during the financial year at six-monthly intervals. The following table shows that of the 1474 manholes baited 587 gave evidence of rat infestation.

SEWERS

Maintenance Treatment  
(Year Ending 31/3/54)

No of Manholes Baited.	No. of Manholes Baited showing part takes of pre-bait.	No. of Manholes Baited showing complete takes of pre-bait.	Approximate Cost.	Recoverable by Grant.	Nett Cost to Council.
1474	459	128	£421 0 4	£210 10 2	£210 10 2

The table overleaf summarises the work undertaken during the year. It will be observed that properties inspected either as a result of complaints received or in the course of normal daily routine showed 170 infestations by rats. Twenty-one of these were found to be heavy or major infestations and 149 minor. Ten properties were found to be seriously infested by mice. Altogether 309 properties affected by rat or mouse infestation were treated during the year. It will be observed that more time has been allocated to the inspection of agricultural property in the area, but much more surveillance is necessary in this direction when time will allow.



**Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**  
**Report for 15 Months Ended 31st March, 1954.**

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority 1	Dwelling Houses 2	Agri- cultural 3	All other (including Business Premises) 4	Total 5
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2) ..	29	23420	145	1817	25411
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1954 as a result of (a) notification (b) survey under the Prevention of Damago by Pests Act, 1949 (c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose. (Notes 1, 2 and 3). ..	(a) 18	200	1	41	260
	(b) 11	49	30	44	134
	(c) —	—	—	7	7
III. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats (Notes 1, 2 and 3) ..	Major 9	2	—	10	21
	Minor 16	109	8	16	149
IV. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice (Notes 1, 2 and 3) ..	—	2	—	8	10
V. Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority (Notes 1, 2 and 3)	29	235	1	44	309
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4 :					
(1) Treatment ..	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing) ..	—	36	—	7	43
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4 ..	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Legal Proceedings ..	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out—13.					

### Notes

- NOTE 1. With the exception of agricultural properties, a property means one which is entered separately in the Valuation Roll for the area.
- NOTE 2. (a) Council houses should be entered in Column (2).  
 (b) Premises used by the Local Authority for the purposes of trade should be entered in Column (4).  
 (c) Sewers should not be included.  
 (d) Combined dwelling and business premises, where occupied by the same person, should be regarded as business premises and should be entered in Column (4). Where the dwelling and business parts of the premises are in separate occupation, separate entries should be made in Columns (2) and (4).
- NOTE 3. For the purpose of completing Sections II, III, IV and V, each property should be entered **once only** in respect of inspections, infestations or treatments.

### HOUSING

A total of 659 Council houses was inspected during the year either on the occasion of the house becoming vacant or prior to exchange. The general condition of the property was invariably reported and both the Surveyor and the Accountant informed of details of disrepair. A valuable opportunity is given under this system of inspection prior to exchanges being confirmed to recommend refusal where a house is observed to be wilfully neglected or verminous. Colliery property in one parish is also subject to this system.

Forty-one requests in respect of Council houses were investigated by the District inspectors. Reports on the living conditions and circumstances of the applicants were prepared and forwarded to local members for their information and consideration.

### INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

Number of visits and re-visits	..	..	2,156
Number of informal notices served	..	..	185
Number of statutory notices served	..	..	13
Number of notices complied with	..	..	119

### FACTORY ACT, 1937

During the year 155 inspections of premises subject to the provisions of the above Act were made, principally in connection with sanitary accommodation, and in those factories where mechanical power is not employed to ensure adequate lighting, ventilation, heating, general cleanliness and prevention of overcrowding in work rooms.

Informal action to remedy defects was taken on seven occasions with a satisfactory conclusion during the year in five instances.

### SHOPS ACT, 1950

This Act consolidates the Shops Act 1912—1938. The functions of the District Council are unchanged and limited to administering those sections relating to provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences, ventilation and temperature

# FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948

## PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of			Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	24	41	4		—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Auth- ority .. .. .	82	91	3		—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	25	23	—		—
TOTAL .. .. .	131	155	7		—



## 2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .. ..	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. ..	—	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient .. ..	1	1	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective .. ..	5	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .. ..	—	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	10	9	—	1	—



# PART VIII OF THE ACT

## OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

NATURE OF WORK	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel— Making, etc.	2	—	—	—	—	—

## SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

### Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

#### MEAT

At the Ministry of Food controlled abattoir, Station Town, 21,604 animals were slaughtered during the year, showing an increase of 773 as compared with the previous year.

All condemned carcase meat and offal was salvaged for industrial purposes and existing arrangements and guarantees continued under the general supervision of the Ministry of Food.

The Recommendations of the Ministry of Food regarding the Methods and Criteria of Meat Inspection, outlined in Memo 3/Meat, were adopted by this Council as from 1st February, 1953.

Briefly, the Recommendations give general guidance calculated to improve the standard of meat inspection with the objects of safeguarding public health and avoiding unnecessary condemnation of meat.

#### OTHER FOODS

The inspectors of the department have continued to issue condemnation certificates in support of traders' claims against suppliers. These certificates are normally accepted without question by the suppliers.

There was a decrease of 275 stones in the weight of other foods condemned as compared with the previous year.

The Salvaged Goods (Revocation) Order 1953, which revokes the Salvaged Goods Order, 1948, came into operation on the 27th September. The new Order removes restrictions imposed by the Salvaged Goods Order on the disposal of certain salvaged foods and soap.

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**Carcases, Organs and Edible Offal condemned as being unfit for Human Consumption during year 1953.**

	Carcases, etc.				Lungs (Sets)			Hearts		Kid- neys	Livers			Heads & Tongues		Sets Stomachs and Intestines	Fat	Udders	
	Beef	Veal	Mutton	Pork	Ox	Sheep	Pig	Ox	Pig	Ox	Ox	Sheep	Pig	Ox	Pig	Ox	Ox	Cow	Pig
Abscesses .. .. .			1c								209	15	8						
Actinobacillosis .. .. .														5					
Actinomycosis .. .. .														3					
Acute Fever .. .. .	1c																		
Aspirations .. .. .					3														
Bacillary Necrosis .. .. .											2								
Bruising and Injury .. .. .	5 sts.	1 st.	9 sts.	5 sts.															
Capillary Angioma .. .. .											8								
Cirrhosis .. .. .											865		29						
Congestion .. .. .					5	2													
Cystic Conditions .. .. .					23	18						9							
Cysticercus Bovis .. .. .														2					
Decomposition .. .. .	1c		6 + 3c																
Distomatosis .. .. .												275							
Emaciation &/or Oedema .. .. .	1 + 9c	1	2 + 3c	2c															
Immaturity .. .. .		1c																	
Jaundice .. .. .	1c	2c																	
Johnes Disease .. .. .																3			
Lipoma .. .. .																		1 st.	
Mastitis .. .. .																		25	18
Melanosis .. .. .					1									1					
Nephritis .. .. .										4									
Pericarditis (including Septic & Traumatic)								5	1										
Pleurisy .. .. .					7		2												
Pneumonia (Gangrenous) .. .. .		2c																	
Pyæmia .. .. .		5c	1 + 1c																
Septic Conditions .. .. .	6c		4c	1 + 9c															
Strongyli .. .. .						9													
Traumatism .. .. .		1c + 1st.	4 sts.	19 sts.															
Tuberculosis .. .. .	3 + 6c	1		4 + 3c	301		41			18	30		11	109	47	38		3	

"C" indicates Casualty Animal.





	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Slaughtered at Govern- ment Controlled Abattoir ..	2916 plus 34 Casualties	402 plus 68 Casualties	278 plus 409 Casualties	13434 plus 86 Casualties	3591 plus 386 Casualties
Number Slaughtered under private licence .. ..	—	—	—	1	230
Whole Carcases condemned (T.B. only) .. ..	2 + 1 Casualty	1 + 5 Casualties	1	—	4 + 3 Casualties
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned (T.B. only)	451		—	—	81
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B. .. ..	13.0%		.1%	—	2.2%
Carcases condemned (All diseases excluding T.B.) .. ..	1 Casualty	1 + 17 Casualties	1 + 11 Casualties	9 + 12 Casualties	1 + 11 Casualties
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned. (All diseases and conditions excluding T.B.)	1071		2	358	95
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease or condition other than T.B. .. ..	31.8%		.2%	2.8%	2.3%

# Provisions, Fish, etc., Condemned as being unfit for Human Consumption during year, 1953.

Cause of Unfitness	Provisions, Loose	Tinned Foods	Fish, etc.
Decomposition/Fire	<div> <div>sts. lbs.</div> <div> <div>Bacon and Ham</div> <div>12</div> <div>7<math>\frac{3}{4}</math></div> </div> <div> <div>Cooked Ham</div> <div>4</div> <div>7<math>\frac{1}{2}</math></div> </div> <div> <div>Eggs (560)</div> <div></div> <div>6</div> </div> <div> <div>Jellied Veal</div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <div> <div>Manufactured—</div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <div> <div>Meat Products</div> <div>23</div> <div>11<math>\frac{1}{4}</math></div> </div> <div> <div>Sundries</div> <div>2</div> <div>5<math>\frac{3}{4}</math></div> </div> </div>		sts. lbs.
Rancidity and Mould Stains	<div> <div>Butter</div> <div></div> <div>11<math>\frac{1}{2}</math></div> </div> <div> <div>Margarine</div> <div></div> <div>9</div> </div>		
Extensive Mould	<div> <div>Cheese</div> <div>8</div> <div>5</div> </div>		
Damage by Fire, Contamin. by Mice and Mite Infest.	<div> <div>Cereals, etc.</div> <div></div> <div>7</div> </div> <div> <div>Cake</div> <div></div> <div>7</div> </div> <div> <div>Flour</div> <div>4</div> <div>1</div> </div>		
Fermentation	<div> <div>Dried Fruits</div> <div>1</div> <div>11<math>\frac{1}{2}</math></div> </div>		
Decomposition due to Blown and Damaged Tins		<div> <div>166 Tins Fish Products</div> <div>4</div> <div>2</div> </div> <div> <div>2828 Tins Fruit</div> <div>159</div> <div>10<math>\frac{3}{4}</math></div> </div> <div> <div>1263 Tins Meat Products</div> <div>154</div> <div>10<math>\frac{1}{2}</math></div> </div> <div> <div>301 Tins Milk</div> <div>24</div> <div>3<math>\frac{1}{4}</math></div> </div> <div> <div>8 Tins Preserves</div> <div></div> <div>9<math>\frac{1}{4}</math></div> </div> <div> <div>5 Tins Sundries</div> <div>4</div> <div>3</div> </div> <div> <div>843 Tins Veg. Products</div> <div>64</div> <div>5<math>\frac{3}{4}</math></div> </div>	
Breakages		<div> <div>5 Jars Preserves</div> <div></div> <div>5</div> </div>	
Decomposition			<div> <div>Fish Cakes</div> <div></div> <div>2<math>\frac{1}{2}</math></div> </div> <div> <div>Kippers</div> <div>2</div> <div>0</div> </div>

Total weight of Meat and Edible Offal condemned .. .. .	3,280 sts. 4 lbs.
Total weight of Tinned Foods, etc., condemned .. .. .	475 sts. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Total Weight ..	<u>3,755 sts. 6<math>\frac{1}{4}</math> lbs.</u>

= 23 tons 9 cwts. 3 sts. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$  lbs.

Year ending 31st December	Weight of Meat and Other Foods Condemned				tons.	cwts.	sts.	lbs.
1938 .. .. .	2	1	6	3				
1939 .. .. .	3	16	5	13				
1940 .. .. .	21	1	3	0				
1941 .. .. .	17	12	5	2				
1942 .. .. .	11	3	4	7				
1943 .. .. .	18	12	4	6 $\frac{3}{4}$				
1944 .. .. .	21	4	4	1 $\frac{1}{4}$				
1945 .. .. .	25	11	1	10 $\frac{1}{2}$				
1946 .. .. .	23	1	0	5 $\frac{3}{4}$				
1947 .. .. .	29	13	0	5 $\frac{1}{4}$				
1948 .. .. .	30	3	7	6 $\frac{3}{4}$				
1949 .. .. .	24	18	3	10 $\frac{3}{4}$				
1950 .. .. .	33	3	6	10 $\frac{3}{4}$				
1951 .. .. .	29	4	3	10				
1952 .. .. .	23	7	0	9 $\frac{1}{4}$				
1953 .. .. .	23	9	3	6 $\frac{1}{4}$				

#### PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924 and 1935

The two vehicles used for the transport of meat from the abattoir were frequently examined prior to loading and were found to be generally maintained in a satisfactory condition. Near the end of the year, however, there were complaints concerning the handling and delivery of meat in certain parts of the district. A record of the action following these complaints rightly belongs to the Report for 1954.

#### DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894-1909

No cases of notifiable disease, swine fever, anthrax, etc., were confirmed during the year.

#### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

All animals at the abattoir are stunned and slaughtered by competent licensed slaughtermen and so far as the limited facilities at the abattoir allow all precautions are taken to prevent any unnecessary suffering by the animals.



The number of licences issued during the year to persons authorising them to slaughter animals in a slaughterhouse or knackers yard was 11, including 10 renewals. The total number of licensed slaughtermen at the end of the year was 65.

#### TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938

No cows were received at the abattoir during the year under the above Order.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

In the rural district regular inspections continued to be made of all premises where food is prepared or stored for purposes of sale. Wherever it has been felt necessary, district sanitary inspectors have urged traders to provide refrigeration equipment.

The number of food premises registered, visited and subject to informal action during the year are detailed in the following table :—

Premises	Number Registered	Number of Inspections	Notices Served	Notices Complied With
Fried Fish Shops	58	128	12	6
Butchers' Shops	58	124	10	8
Ice Cream Shops	127	269	4	4
Restaurants, etc.	Nil	81	1	1
Other Food Prem.	Nil.	1953	23	16
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>2555</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>35</b>

Twelve applications for registration of premises for "The sale of ice-cream" under Section 14 of the Act were received during the year, all of which were approved. In the majority of cases the applications, by mutual consent, were not submitted for consideration until the shopkeeper had discussed his proposal with the inspector for the particular district and satisfied him on the arrangements provided.

A total of 132 samples of ice-cream was taken during the year for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. The villages at which the samples were collected and their grading are shown in table form. All samples attaining grades one and two are regarded as satisfactory. The steady improvement in the bacterial purity of this confection is shown clearly by the following comparison :—

Year	No. of samples taken	No. satisfactory	Percentage satisfactory
1950	155	127	82%
1951	163	145	89%
1952	136	126	93%
1953	132	129	98%

(All samples submitted to Methylene Blue Reduction Test)

The collection of samples for fat analysis instituted in 1949 at the request of the Ministry of Food was continued throughout the year.

An additional 44 samples of ice-cream manufactured within the rural district were collected for this purpose and examined by Mr. W. Gordon Carey, Public Analyst, Newcastle upon Tyne.

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## ICE CREAM SAMPLING—YEAR 1953.

District	Methylene Blue										Fat Content		
	Grades												
	1	%	2	%	3	%	4	%	Above	%	Below	%	
Blackhall ..	3	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	100	—	—	
Blackhall Rocks	2	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	100	—	—	
Dalton-le-Dale ..	1	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Deaf Hill ..	1	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Easington ..	2	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Easington Colliery	9	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	100	—	—	
Haswell ..	1	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Hawthorn ..	3	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Horden ..	10	84	1	8	1	8	—	—	6	100	—	—	
Murton ..	15	88	2	12	—	—	—	—	6	67	3	33	
Shotton ..	10	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	100	—	—	
South Hetton ..	6	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Station Town ..	14	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Thornley ..	5	83	—	—	—	—	1	17	2	100	—	—	
Wheatley Hill ..	17	90	1	5	1	5	—	—	2	100	—	—	
Wingate ..	24	92	2	8	—	—	—	—	8	89	1	11	
TOTAL ..	123	92	6	5	2	2	1	1	40	91	4	9	

Total Methylene Blue Samples .. .. 132  
 Total Fat Content Samples .. .. 44

## MILK SUPPLY—SUPERVISION

Regular inspections of dairies have been carried out by the sanitary inspectors and any infringements of the Regulations have been reported to those concerned.

A total of 428 milk samples was submitted for examination during the year consisting of 154 samples of raw milk, which were tested for keeping quality and cleanliness, 233 samples of pasteurised and sterilised which were subjected to additional tests designed to establish the efficiency of heat treatment, and 41 samples taken for detection of tubercle bacilli. Arising from the latter examination all samples proved negative with the exception of one which, because of the death of the guinea pig during the test, was returned as inconclusive. It should be explained that the number of raw milk samples submitted for examination in respect of keeping quality and cleanliness rose from 53 in 1952 to 154 during the year under review. The milk-borne food poisoning outbreak in July was largely responsible for the increase, necessitating the submission of 63 samples for examination in respect of food poisoning organisms.

On fourteen occasions when raw milk samples failed to satisfy the prescribed tests and the District Inspectors reported favourably on the distributors' premises and methods, copies of the bacteriologist's reports were forwarded for information to the County Milk Production Officer with whom full and friendly co-operation is maintained.

Nine unsatisfactory results were received from pasteurised milk samples. These were referred to the appropriate County Health Inspectors, by whose Authority the establishments were licensed. All sampling work is shown in the table overleaf.

During the course of the year 425 inspections of distributors' premises were made and seven informal notices served in respect of infringements of the provisions of the Regulations. In all cases ready compliance with the terms of the notices was obtained.

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# MILK SAMPLING.

428 samples of raw and heat treated milk were taken for examination during 1953, with the following results :—

	No. of Samples Taken	Methylene Blue Test				Phosphatase Test				Turbidity Test			Food Poisoning Organisms Test			Biological Examination for Tuberculosis		
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Inconclusive	% Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Inconclusive	% Unsatisfactory	Negative	Positive	Inconclusive	% Positive	Negative	Positive	Inconclusive	% Positive	% Positive
Ungraded Milk ..	81	30	13	—	30·2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	—	1	—	—
T.T. Milk Pasteurised Milk ..	73	5	1	—	16·7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1·6	3	—	—	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised Milk ..	208	95	7	3	6·7	103	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised Milk ..	50	24	1	—	4·0	24	1	—	4·0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised Milk ..	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## HOUSING, WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE

(Contributed by the Engineer and Surveyor)

### HOUSING

The construction of new houses in the district continued satisfactorily during 1953, and the year saw a marked improvement in the building materials supply position.

A total of 158 traditional houses were completed during the year, and the total number of houses completed since the end of the war was 1950, making the total number of houses owned by the Council 6656.

**RANGE RENEWAL AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME.** Approval was granted by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in July of this year to the proposed range renewal and improvement programme to 1,620 pre-war houses at an estimated cost of £335,127. Work has commenced on this programme and 60 houses have been completed.

**MURTON 1914 CONVERSION SCHEME.** Approval was granted by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in November, 1951, to the improvement of 102 houses at Murton under the 1949 Housing Act, and 28 houses have been completed during the year.

**HOUSING MAINTENANCE.** A total of 19,256 pre-war housing and 9,334 post-war housing repairs have been carried out during the year.

### WATER SUPPLY

Number of houses with mains supply from standpipes, as follows :—

Castle Eden	..	..	..	Nil.
Haswell	..	..	..	13
South Hetton	..	..	..	115
Hutton Henry	..	..	..	20
Station Town	..	..	..	2
Sheraton and Hulam	..	..	..	Nil.
Nesbitt	..	..	..	Nil.
Thornley	..	..	..	12
Wingate	..	..	..	Nil.
Wheatley Hill	..	..	..	6
Trimdon	..	..	..	Nil.
				<hr/>
				168
				<hr/>

**RESERVOIRS.** Daily inspections were made of the two service reservoirs owned by the Council, one at Thornley capacity 750,000 gallons, and the other at Haswell capacity 148,200 gallons : graph records were made of the daily water levels and records of the quantity of water pumped daily at the New Winning. Haswell Reservoir was emptied and thoroughly cleaned out on 22nd September, 1953. All men engaged on this work were subject to a blood test, arranged by the Medical Officer of Health, before being allowed to enter the reservoir.

**WASTE PREVENTION.** In the Council's supply area, a regular routine inspection of domestic fittings was carried out on all properties, including the rewashering of taps and ball taps, free of charge. The position with regard to waste water is satisfactory.

**DISTRICT METERS.** Eighteen meters are read fortnightly and consumptions are recorded.

**QUARTERLY METERS.** Nine additional meters were installed during the year bringing the total to 161—147 are the property of the Council and are supplied on a rental basis.

For test purposes, two meters were fitted on modern hotels in the area, principally to supply information regarding consumption on such properties.

**NEW WORK.** For further development in the Thornley and South Hetton areas the following mains were laid :—

**SOUTH HETTON.** 125 yds. 4 in. main, 330 yds. 3 in. main and lead connections from main to curtilage of property. Two new hydrants were installed.

**THORNLEY.** 270 yds. 3 in. main lead connections from main to curtilage of property. Two new hydrants were installed.

**MAINTENANCE OF MAINS.** Throughout the district several minor repairs were executed on the distributing mains due to deterioration. Further experience of leaking joints occurred on the 6 in. pumping main supplying Haswell. During the year it was necessary to recaulk eight joints. The airvalve chamber pit south of Thornley Crossings had to be rebuilt.

**SOFT WATER DISTRIBUTION.** Through the completion of the main supply of the Burnhope Pipe Line now delivering into this area, the following villages have to date derived the benefit of the blending system in operation by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company :—



Murton  
 South Hetton  
 Easington  
 Dalton-le-Dale

The southern area covering the largest portion of this Council's water distribution has not at present benefited from the Burnhope Supply.

## SEWERAGE

A considerable amount of work has been carried out throughout the district during the past year. An extremely abnormal thunder storm experienced last August created considerable flooding in various parts of the area, and brought to light weaknesses and a certain amount of deterioration in the sewerage system, which resulted in a number of sewers being relayed, together with the installation of heavy type pattern road gullies.

**HORDEN.** Considerable flooding was experienced in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Streets vicinity, which resulted in the relaying of 60 yds. of 15 in. pipes, the reconstruction of 4 No. manholes, and the installation of heavy type road gullies.

**DEAF HILL.** Due to subsidence, the sewer laid alongside the railway embankment at Deaf Hill suffered periodic fractures, and necessitated a complete renewal of 260 yds. of 15 in. glazed earthenware pipes, together with the construction of 4 manholes.

**SOUTH HETTON.** The main Haswell to the Sea sewer at South Hetton was reported to be emitting sewage through the manholes and fouling the area to the east of the Colliery. A survey and investigation resulted in a relaying of 220 yds. of glazed earthenware pipes, 150 yds. of 15 in. cast-iron pipes, together with the construction of the necessary manholes. It was necessary to tunnel through the railway embankment for a distance of 90 yards where working conditions were extremely wet. This work was completed at a cost of £2,000.

**HASWELL.** Recurring complaints of flooding in the Store Square area of Haswell revealed the collapse of a 9 in. sewer. This necessitated the relaying of 70 yds. of 9 in. glazed earthenware pipes and 40 yds. of 6 in. G.E. pipes, together with the necessary manholes.

**CASTLE EDEN.** The Castle Eden district is now served by the water-borne sewerage system. This scheme included the construction of a Pumping Station, the laying of 240 yds. of 9 in. glazed earthenware pipes, 350 yds. of 4 in. cast-iron rising main, together with the ancillary works. 27 properties benefit by this scheme.



## PUBLIC CLEANSING

(Contributed by the Cleansing Superintendent)

## STATISTICS 1953.

Number of Premises	.. .. .	25,411
Number of Collections	.. .. .	2,606,455
Total Refuse Collected (Tons) Estimated	..	76,170
Average Yield of Refuse per house per week		1.19 Cwts.
Total Net Cost	.. .. .	£63,607 0 0
Cost per Collection	.. .. .	5.86d.
Number of Miles travelled	.. .. .	128,570
Number of Gallons of petrol consumed	..	27,803
Miles per gallon	.. .. .	4.62

## COLLECTIONS OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE

There has been a decided increase in collections during the year partly due to the natural growth of the new town, the Council's building programme and revision of rounds with the advent of the large type vehicles. From the 25,411 houses, other buildings and dwellings in the district 2,606,455 collections were made. This represents an average of 50,124 collections per week. It will be appreciated however, that the rural parts, which are few in number, are serviced each week subject to normal weather conditions.

During February heavy snows brought a temporary standstill to the west of the district and assistance was given by nine volunteer teams at the first opportunity. The position was made increasingly more difficult by householders clearing snow from their yards and paths into large mounds in the streets and roadways. This virtually put a stop to road traffic. Not content with this some householders, with full bins, and wishing to discard their surplus, scattered it about among the snow. The thaw left a sorry mess. Should severe conditions exist again this winter and collections are not maintained the following advice is given :—

1. To deposit ashes, vegetable and other domestic wastes on the roads and streets is a contravention of the Public Health Act 1936 and action can be taken by the Council. To help the service householders are, therefore, advised to provide a pail, a cardboard box or some other suitable container for the surplus until collections become normal.
2. Burn all vegetable and other domestic wastes—they will create heat on a good fire and avoid nuisances.

3. Remove just sufficient snow from yards and pathways to allow for easy and safe passage to work, to school or to shop. The removed snow to be stacked in the yard or neatly in the road channels keeping gullies free and the road open for traffic.

If this advice is taken, considerable help will be given to my department to give the public this very necessary service. I would also remind householders that, whilst the Cleansing Department are denied entrance to streets, essential food distributors are likewise handicapped.

#### NEW VEHICLES

During the year, three new vehicles were purchased, two for collecting and the other, a chaseside with shovel and dozer attachment, for work on disposal areas. The two fore and aft tippers were put into immediate use and have proved successful both from increased collections and easier loading. There are now four such vehicles operating in the district. The chaseside soon proved its worth and on certain disposal areas a marked improvement became evident. Apart from the desired consolidation, this machine was able to dig its own covering material from the quarry face and spread to a suitable height. With this addition, there are now two machines operating continuously at Easington, Blackhall, Shotton and Wheatley Hill refuse disposal areas and on other essential work as required.

#### CARE OF DUST BINS

Leaflets were distributed to all council house tenants advising them of certain rules which, if followed, would help to prolong the life of the dust bin. At the time of the distribution dust bins were costing 29/6d. and have since been reduced to 26/6d. Throughout the year 445 dust bins have been replaced or provided on the council housing estates and 352 dust bins sold to private owners. If care is taken to burn waste foods, to keep moisture to a minimum, to refrain from putting hot ash into the bin and keep the lid in position on all possible occasions, the life of the dust bin will be prolonged, more frequent collections will be made and economy in the use of tipping space will be effected.

#### REQUEST SERVICE

Dumps, consisting of discarded mattresses, beds, lino and other domestic items, can still be seen in many parts of the district. The dumps are usually created on private land, without any permission from the owner, and seem to spring up overnight. To counter this, the Council commenced clearing up the dumps and introduced to the public a "request service". This service means that the dustman will take away, during normal rounds, any



domestic item, which has been referred to above, on request by the householder. These dumps quickly sour and become breeding places for vermin and it is therefore in the interests of public health that every advantage should be taken of this service. To help in the service and not unnecessarily delay collections of household refuse, householders are asked to make a bundle or bundles of the discarded items. One example—wallpaper—please tie all pieces into a bundle, which can then be easily picked up and put into the vehicle.

#### LITTER

The Council has, during the year, experimented with different types of litter containers. Whilst greater care was taken of them than anticipated full use was not made of them although it is pleasing to report that they soon became part of the natural environment and users increased in number. The provision of such containers does give the potential user a place in which to deposit litter. The containers are attractive to the eye, suitably placed and designed for the public's convenience. The Council has now decided to erect similar containers throughout the district during the next two financial years. It is therefore expected that the citizens of a progressive local authority will respond and take advantage of such an offer to keep their district clean.

#### STONES IN STREETS

From time to time during the year this question was the subject of detailed reports and discussions. In some parts of the district improvements were noted but in others the position became increasingly worse. So unreasonable were the amounts that the Council decided to submit their information for Counsel's opinion. Whilst awaiting this opinion, the workmen, without trades union support, decided not to collect stone heaps as it was argued that the heaps did not constitute part of their normal duty as ash bin men. The dispute extended into the third week and then the workmen, under protest, commenced normal routine work. The district, whilst untidy, was quickly cleaned up and a minimum of assistance was required by the service teams. Counsel's opinion was closely considered and, whilst it gave another avenue of exploration, it clearly indicated that only a test case would give a definite result. The Council's desire to have such a result was expressed by the decision to meet the Highways Authority on this question before any further action was taken.

#### TENDERING MATERIALS

The suspension of tendering for materials during war time and to date was lifted and forms of tender prepared for the trade early in the New Year.

## T.V. INTERFERENCE

The Council, whilst mindful of the fact that the bulk of T.V. programmes were viewed after working hours, have decided that all refuse collecting vehicles be fitted with distributor restrictors to eliminate distortion on viewing screens caused by slow moving refuse vehicles proceeding along the streets and roads.

## PETERLEE

The decoration of the forecourts and verges by trees, and well designed beds of shrubs and flowers has brought to light a contrast of neatness and untidiness. The latter is the result of littering of estate roads with paper, coal deliveries and accumulations of stone and small coal. This problem is, of course, general throughout the rural district, but is more noticeable due to the layout of roads, paths, verges and the cultivation of surrounds. Apart from the erection of suitable litter bins there does not appear to be much hope of eliminating the remaining untidiness for some time. The Council is mindful of this problem and is determined to play its part in any improvement that can be obtained in the new town.

**LITTER.** The siting of litter bins requires some consideration and, in my opinion, a low standard set into the grass verge along the pathways would merge into the natural background and yet remain sufficiently conspicuous for all potential users. The lamp standards cannot be used, and with few exceptions the standing type of litter bin is not economical. The question of a suitable type of standard is a matter which could be discussed with the Chief Engineer.

**SWEEPING.** This work is carried out by my department and supplemented by the Corporation with the employment of a street orderly. The sweeping, which is done regularly, helps to create a degree of tidiness but contracting vehicles, tractors, etc. quickly make road surfaces dirty during wet weather. This is to be expected, but as the town extends the result of regular sweeping will become increasingly noticeable. The Highways Authority will soon adopt the majority of estate roads and be responsible for their maintenance, which will include keeping the channels free and emptying the gullies, but will not include the sweeping of pathways, forecourts and shopping centres.

**DUST BINS.** Due to Government restriction, the non-galvanised type of dust bin was issued to the tenants. The life of such a bin varies from two to three years and replacements have already been necessary and many more will be required shortly. It is a wise policy to standardise on a well designed dust bin and I advise the B.S.S. 2 cu. ft. galvanised tapered dust bin as a suitable and economic bin. This bin is slightly less than the one used in the district, but in view of the regular twice weekly



collection, yield of refuse from only one fireplace and long carry to the collecting point, this smaller bin would be an advantage.

The layout in some instances is such that on occasions it is necessary to carry six to eight dust bins to one collecting point prior to emptying. If return of the correct bin to each tenant is to be assured identification by numbering would appear to be necessary, as the collecting dustman does not normally return the bin, the latter part of the operation being carried out by another member of the team.

The time is now opportune to advise tenants on the correct use of the dust bin so that a longer life can be expected. It will be appreciated that nowadays the dust bin has become an expensive item and therefore every care should be taken to see, that it does its job properly and remains with the tenant for at least seven years. As time is important where costs are involved any delay by gates being locked, dogs hindering the work of the dustman, cardboard boxes fastened tightly into the bin, bottles and jars mixed with other household refuse all help to create higher costs and delay collections.

KIRBSIDE COLLECTIONS. The length of carry from the dwelling to the collecting point has steadily increased, due I understand, to certain economies. In order to keep a continuity of filling it is necessary to have a number of bins ready by the "kirbside". The larger capacity vehicle with two men rolling out has managed to maintain the necessary rate of collection. It would be an advantage if an occasional access was created to avoid excessive "carries" along pathways servicing 10—14 houses. This would assist greatly and help to reduce the long travel at present experienced by the dustman.

#### SALVAGE

The recovery of saleable items has continued throughout the year and whilst there was a reduction in the tonnage of waste paper—due to a temporary restriction by Board Mills—increased sales were recorded against other items of salvage. Unfortunately the dust bin still received much valuable salvage and it is hoped that more householders will help the Council this year by placing their salvage **beside the bin and not inside.**

GENERAL. All salvage recovered from the district was sold to various traders and realised £4.399 7s. 4d. Ready markets are still available and, as can be seen from my remarks in the various sections, far greater quantities of salvable items could be easily disposed of.

An appeal is again made by the Council requesting householders to save a little more and help to subsidise the cost of the cleansing service.

#### CONCLUSION

With few exceptions the good relationship with the public has been maintained and my thanks are extended to the foremen, mechanics, drivers and dustmen who have on occasions willingly helped the cleansing service when times have been difficult.

This basic health service provided to regularly remove from the midst of the population a source of nuisance must be seriously regarded by the public as "their service and their safeguard".

I am once again grateful for the helpful co-operation of all departments and wish to thank my Chairman for his understanding and assistance and particularly his advice in the many intricate problems successfully dealt with during the year. My thanks are also extended to my staff who have been ever mindful of the quality of work expected, and for their loyalty and assistance.

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William Barlow & Son, Ltd.  
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